

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the pending claims with the following listing of claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly for forming a tunnel through a proximal end of a tibia comprising:
 - a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;
 - a template mounted on the first end of the brace, the template being adapted to rest on a lateral or medial facet at a proximal end of the tibia, the template being movable ~~linearly only~~ at the first end of the brace only in a linear manner between a posterior position and an anterior position with respect to the brace; and
 - a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace such that when the template is disposed on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia, the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve can be selectively biased against a lateral, medial, or anterior side of a proximal end of the tibia, the tubular guide sleeve also having a central longitudinal axis that intersects with a first location of the template when the template is in the posterior position and intersects with a second location of the template when the template is in the anterior position, the second location being spaced apart from the first location.
2. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the brace has a substantially U-shaped configuration.
3. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template comprises a base plate having a surface substantially complementary to at least a portion of the lateral or medial facet of the tibia.
4. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template comprises a base plate and a projection extending from the base plate, the projection being positioned to catch against a posterior side of the tibia when the base plate is mounted on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia.

5. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template comprises a base plate and a projection extending from the base plate, the projection being positioned to bias against a lateral, medial, or anterior side of the tibia when the base plate is mounted on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template is telescopically mounted to the first end of the brace.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 6, further comprising markings formed on the template, the markings defining the position of the template relative to the first end of the brace.

8. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of alternative templates each having a different configuration, the template being selected from the plurality of alternative templates.

9. **(Cancelled)**

10. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of teeth are formed on the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve.

11. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
a tubular drill sleeve slidably disposed within the tubular guide sleeve; and
a guide wire rotatably disposed within the tubular drill sleeve.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly for forming a tunnel through a proximal end of a tibia comprising:

a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;

a template mounted on the first end of the brace, the template comprising a base plate in the form of a low profile plate being adapted to rest on a lateral or medial facet at the proximal end of the tibia, a constricted stem projecting from the base plate, and a projection extending from the base plate, the constricted stem being coupled with the brace and having a transverse cross sectional width that is smaller than a transverse cross sectional width of the base plate, the projection ~~begin~~ being positioned to bias against a posterior, anterior, lateral, or medial side of the tibia when the base plate is mounted on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia; and

a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace, the transverse cross-sectional width of the base plate being wider than a transverse cross-sectional width of the tubular guide sleeve.

13. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the brace has a substantially U-shaped configuration.

14. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the base plate has a surface substantially complementary to at least a portion of the lateral or media facet of the tibia.

15. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the template is adjustably mounted to the first end of the brace.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 15, further comprising markings formed on the template, the markings defining the position of the template relative to the first end of the brace.

17. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, further comprising a plurality of alternative templates each having a different configuration, the template being selected from the plurality of alternative templates.

18. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the tubular guide sleeve has a central longitudinal axis that intersects with the template.

19. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the tubular guide sleeve has a distal end, a plurality of teeth being formed on the distal end.

20. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, further comprising:
a tubular drill sleeve slidably disposed within the tubular guide sleeve; and
a guide wire rotatably disposed within the tubular drill sleeve.

21.-29. **(Cancelled)**

30. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly for forming a tunnel through an end of a bone, the guide assembly comprising:

a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;

a template mounted on the first end of the brace, the template comprising a base plate in the form of a flattened plate being adapted to rest on a facet at the end of the bone and a constricted stem projecting from the base plate, the constricted stem being coupled with the brace and having a transverse cross sectional width that is smaller than a transverse cross sectional width of the base plate; and

a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace such that when the template is disposed on the facet of the bone, the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve can be selectively biased against a side of the bone, the transverse cross-sectional width of the base plate being wider than a transverse cross-sectional width of the tubular guide sleeve.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the brace has a substantially U-shaped configuration.

32. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the base plate has a surface substantially complementary to at least a portion of the facet of the bone.

33. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the template further comprises a projection extending from the base plate, the projection being positioned to catch against a side of the bone when the base plate is mounted on the facet of the bone.

34. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the template further comprises a projection extending from the base plate, the projection being positioned to bias against a side of the bone when the base plate is mounted on the facet of the bone.

35. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the template is adjustably mounted to the brace.

36. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 35, further comprising markings formed on the template, the markings defining the position of the template relative to the brace.

37. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, further comprising a plurality of alternative templates each having a different configuration, the template being selected from the plurality of alternative templates.

38. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the tubular guide sleeve has a central longitudinal axis that intersects with the template.

39. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein a plurality of teeth are formed on the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve.

40. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, further comprising:

a tubular drill sleeve slidably disposed within the tubular guide sleeve; and
a guide wire rotatably disposed within the tubular drill sleeve.

41. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly for forming a tunnel through an end of a bone, the guide assembly comprising:

a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;

a template mounted on the first end of the brace, the template comprising a base plate in the form of an enlarged plate being adapted to rest on a facet at the end of the bone, a constricted stem projecting from the base plate, and a projection extending from the base plate, the constricted stem being coupled with the brace and having a transverse cross sectional width that is smaller than a transverse cross sectional width of the base plate, the projection being positioned to bias against a side of the bone when the base plate is mounted on the facet of the bone; and

a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace, the transverse cross-sectional width of the base plate being wider than a transverse cross-sectional width of the tubular guide sleeve.

42. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 18, wherein the template is movable linearly only at the first end of the brace between a posterior position and an anterior position with respect to the brace such that the central longitudinal axis of the tubular guide sleeve intersects with a first location of the template when the template is in the posterior position and intersects with a second location of the template when the template is in the anterior position, the second location being spaced apart from the first location.

43. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 38, wherein the template is movable linearly only at the first end of the brace between a posterior position and an anterior position with respect to the brace such that the central longitudinal axis of the tubular guide sleeve intersects with a first location of the template when the template is in the posterior position and intersects with a second location of the template when the template is in the anterior position, the second location being spaced apart from the first location.

44. **(New)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the brace extends longitudinally between the first and second ends along a curve and wherein the linear movement of the template between the posterior position and the anterior position with respect to the brace occurs in a direction that is substantially parallel to the direction of the curve at the first end of the brace.

45. **(New)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the brace extends longitudinally between the first and second ends along a curve and wherein the template is telescopically mounted to the first end of the brace so as to extend away from the brace in the direction of the curve at the first end of the brace.

46. **(New)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the brace extends longitudinally between the first and second ends along a curve and wherein the template extends away from the brace so as to be aligned with the curve of the brace at the first end of the brace.